



NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact Betty VanDeventer at betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov or 402.471.4537

Oct. 14,
2015

NEBRASKA VR RECEIVES \$3.6 MILLION GRANT FOR CAREER PATHWAY ADVANCEMENT PROJECT

Nebraska VR recently received a \$3.6 million, five-year, federal grant for a Career Pathway Advancement Project to help at least 300 eligible Nebraskans who have disabilities build careers through partnerships with businesses and educational institutions.

The Career Pathway Advancement Project will expand existing Nebraska Department of Labor initiatives in information technology, manufacturing, transportation, distribution and logistics.

Individuals with disabilities will receive services such as career guidance, benefits counseling, assistive technology support and financial assistance to pursue advanced credentials and postsecondary degrees in targeted occupational areas.

Nebraska VR Director Mark Schultz said, "The Career Pathway Advancement Project will be built on a proven up-skill/back-fill business model. This project will create new opportunities for individuals with disabilities to advance their careers and open opportunities for other individuals to fill entry or mid-level skill positions."

“Nebraska VR has once again successfully reached out to find and secure new opportunities for Nebraskans with disabilities,” said state Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt. “This new project demonstrates how Nebraska VR’s partnerships with businesses across the state benefits individuals with disabilities as well as employers.”

Nebraska VR helps individuals with disabilities prepare for, find, and keep jobs while helping businesses recruit, train and retain employees with disabilities. This project represents the next evolution of vocational rehabilitation services by expanding and improving the opportunities available for individuals with disabilities — including youth with disabilities — to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

An outreach campaign will be conducted to identify and recruit individuals with disabilities who want to advance their careers in high demand, high-quality jobs in targeted industry sectors.

Federal funds provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, for the five-year project requires a 10 percent state match.

Individuals interested in participating in or learning more about the Career Pathway Advancement Project are encouraged to contact Nebraska VR at 877-637-3422.

Learn more about Nebraska VR at <http://vr.nebraska.gov>. Nebraska VR is a division of the Nebraska Department of Education.